

A REMEDY FOR BURNS AND SCALDS.

At a recent meeting of the Massachusetts Dental Society in Salem, Dr. G. F. Waters gave a detailed account of a discovery which he had recently made of a remedy for burns and scalds. It was claimed that the application of bicarbonate of soda, which is the simple cooking soda to be found in all households, or other alkalies in a neutral form, would afford instantaneous cessation of pain from the severest burns or scalds, and that in all cases of mere superficial burning the treatment would effect a cure in the course of a few hours.

At the meeting referred to the practical value of the remedy was demonstrated by a test requiring considerable nerve to put into operation, and still more faith in the efficacy of the novel treatment which was to be illustrated. The doctor dipped the sponge into boiling water and squeezed it over his right wrist, the water flowing almost completely around the arm, and nearly encircling it with a severe scald something like two inches in width. Not content with this, he dipped the sponge a second time, and pressed it closely on the under side of his wrist for thirty seconds. He then applied bicarbonate of soda to the scalded surface, and laid over it a wet cloth, and the intense pain was banished as if by magic. On the next day after this severe test the scald, with the exception of the part purposely made most severe, was practically healed, only a slight discoloration of the skin showing where the scalding water had flowed—this, too, without a second application of the soda. The flesh on the under side of the wrist had been cooked down to the sweat glands, and the scald was one which ordinarily would have caused an open and painful wound of long duration. The only treatment of this, however, after the first application of the soda, was to keep the part moist with a wet cloth, and no pain was experienced, and it was but a few days before this severe wound was seen to be rapidly healing.